

JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Oct. 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 & Nov. 1

JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Olie Coen James Blackmon
Lusie Cuskey Stephen Manos

What if surviving meant forgetting the person you love?

The **STRAIGHT** Pill
by Doug Powhida

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

GAVIN BURMA OLIE COEN

MANLY MEN
DOING MANLY THINGS
BY
SCOTT C.
SICKLES

Oct. 23-Nov. 1
at MadLab

Love was never the problem. Hiding it was.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Stephen Manos Blanca Corr

Little
Black
Dress

by John Mabey

Oct. 23-Nov. 1
at MadLab

One dress. One truth. One step closer to home.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Lexi Vestey Zach Shafer

After Mannequin
by
Greg A. Smith

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

Not every love story fits the mold.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Zach Shafer James Blackmon

When Jesus
Drops By
For Tea

by
Greg
Lam

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

He's back. He's in your living room. And he wants tea.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Gavin Burma William Ray-Macke

Socks and
Sandals and
Capybaras

by
Dallas Ray-Macke

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

Hangovers fade. Grief lingers. Friends bring carbs.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Reagan Hyer Van Olmstead Willow Cook

Quitting
by
Katelyn
France

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at
MadLab

Letting go is hard. Friends make it easier.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

James Blackmon Zach Shafer Melanie Dancy

Tying Up The Loose Ends
by
Mark Harvey Levine

Oct. 23-Nov. 1

at MadLab

Some things can't be packed away.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Reagan Hyer Lusie Cuskey

Take Me Home
by
Christopher Lockheart

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

A crash, a choice, and the end of the road.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Presents

Acts of Pride

SHORT PLAY SHOWCASE

Produced & Directed by James Blackmon

ACT I

Manly Men Doing Manly Things by Scott C. Sickles

Take Me Home by Christopher Lockhardt

Tying Up the Loose Ends by Mark Harvey Levine

Socks and Sandals and Capybaras by Dallas Ray-Macke

The Straight Pill by Doug Powhida

ACT II

After Mannequin by Greg A. Smith

Quitting by Katelyn France

Little Black Dress by John Mabey

When Jesus Drops by for Tea by Greg Lam

Acts of Pride runs approximately 2 hours and is performed with one intermission.

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Acts of Pride



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Reagan Hyer Van Olmstead Willow Cook



Quitting

by
Katelyn
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Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at
MadLab

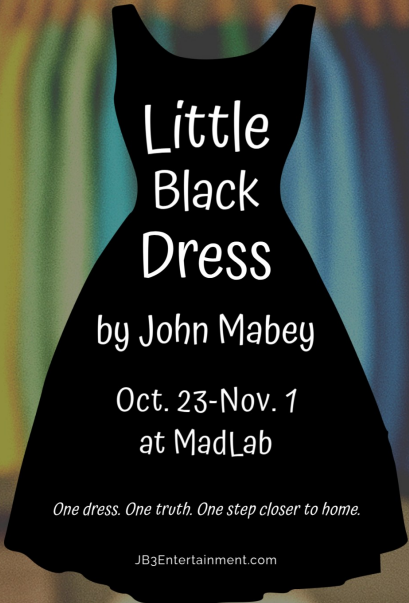
Letting go is hard. Friends make it easier.

JB3Entertainment.com



JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Stephen Manos Blanca Gorr



Little Black Dress

by John Mabey

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One dress. One truth. One step closer to home.

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JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts Of Pride

Zach Shafer James Blackmon



When Jesus Drops By For Tea

by
Greg
Lam

Oct. 23-Nov. 1 at MadLab

He's back. He's in your living room. And he wants tea.

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Manly Men Doing Manly Things by Scott C. Sickles

In a quiet waiting room, two ex-lovers confront love, loss, and what it really means to be a man.

Les Morton.....Gavin Buurma

Douglas Foster.....Olie Coen

Take Me Home by Christopher Lockheart

A crash forces two women to confront their past and decide whether love can still lead them home.

Chelle..... Reagan Hyer

Penny..... Lusie Cuskey

Tying Up the Loose Ends by Mark Harvey Levine

Two exes packing up their shared life they discover that closure isn't as simple as sealing a box.

RichardJames Blackmon

Adam.....Zach Shafer

Emily.....Melanie Dancy

Socks and Sandals and Capybaras by Dallas Ray-Macke

A simple visit between friends becomes a tender step toward healing and hope.

AlexGavin Buurma

JordanWilliam Ray-Macke

The Straight Pill by Doug Powhida

When love itself becomes a crime, one couple must decide what's worth saving—their lives or their love.

HankJames Blackmon

BrianOlie Coen

Lab TechnicianLusie Cuskey

Armed GuardStephen Manos

After Mannequin by Greg A. Smith

Picking up where the cult classic ends, After Mannequin reimagines the love story through a modern lens as Emmy and Jonathan face the realities of identity, love, and what it means to live authentically.

JonathanZach Shafer

EmmyLexy Vestey

Quitting by Katelyn France

Three friends reunite and find that kicking bad habits isn't so easy—especially when the hardest habit to kick is letting go of the past.

SammyWillow Cook

RyanReagan Hyer

JackVan Olmstead

Little Black Dress by John Mabey

When a secret is revealed, a couple must confront honesty, identity, and what it really means to love someone for who they are.

ZoeBlanca Gorr

DougStephen Manos

When Jesus Drops by for Tea by Greg Lam

Picking up where the cult classic ends, After Mannequin reimagines the love story through a modern lens as Emmy and Jonathan face the realities of identity, love, and what it means to live authentically.

MatthewZach Shafer

JoshJames Blackmon

The JB3Entertainment Short Play Showcase: Acts of Pride Awards

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES!

Tap here to vote for your favorite actor,
playwright and play!

<https://forms.gle/jL1tCRP9aUSNDtXi6>

THE CAST

Gavin Buurma is thrilled to return to the stage after a few years away and is especially excited to make his MadLab debut! Favorite past credits include Cabaret (Emcee), Elf (Buddy), and 9 to 5 (Joe). By day, Gavin works full-time for The Ohio State University and is grateful for the chance to reconnect with his passion for performing outside of work. He holds a BA in Theatre and an MBA from Heidelberg University. Endless thanks to his friends and family for their constant encouragement and support. And a big thank you to James for this opportunity to perform. Enjoy the show!



Olie Coen is returning to MadLab for another short play showcase, after participating in Young Writers this past summer. He recently returned to the stage in The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee this spring, and he is so happy to be back doing theatre. Olie wants to thank his family, his friends, and James Blackmon for all the loving support and positive encouragement.



Reagan Hyer is a transgender, twenty-year performer from the Columbus area. She studied at Sinclair College in Dayton and Columbus State Community College in Columbus. Past favorite roles include Ly-sander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Catherine in *Proof*, and Ariel in *The Tempest*. She remains eternally grateful for her friends and community and cat Lucia for supporting her theatrical endeavors.



Lusie Cuskey (she/they) is a theatre professor at Ohio Wesleyan University and has worked as an actor, intimacy choreographer, director, and artistic mental health coordinator throughout the US, including her most recent performance in a musical showcase with queer performance group The Lavender Collective in Birmingham, AL. They're grateful for the opportunity to come play in the Columbus theatre scene and celebrate complex queer stories. You can learn more about Lusie at LusieCuskey.com or [@LusieCuskey](https://www.instagram.com/LusieCuskey) on Instagram.



Zach Shafer (he/him) is very excited to be joining the cast of Acts of Pride! Zach has been performing around central Ohio for most of his life. He studied Theatre and Communication at The Ohio State University and has been involved in theatre and entertainment all around Columbus ever since. Recent credits include A Real Boy (Pinocchio) and The Shakespeare Conspiracy (Christopher Marlowe). Zach would like to thank his family and friends for their constant support along his journey.



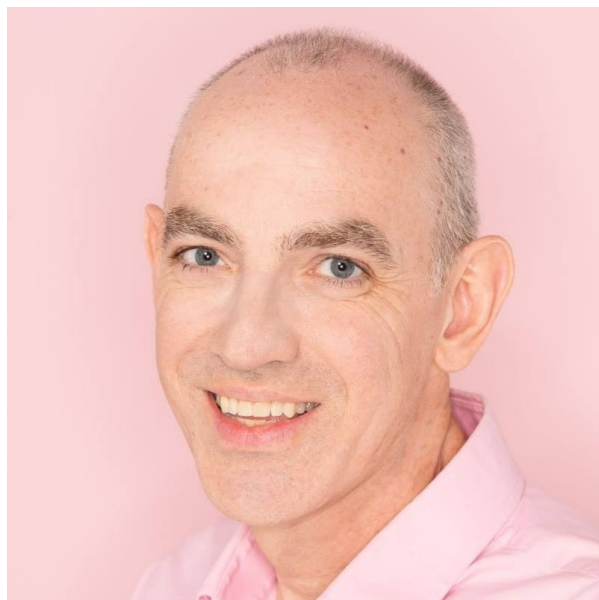
Melanie Dancy is currently loving being a Surrogate Pet Momma after an 18-year career as an elementary school teacher. An active member of the Columbus arts community, Melanie has performed with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Vaud-Villities, and SNAP!. Her theatrical credits include roles in Dreamgirls, The Music Man, Once Upon A Mattress and Bat Boy, with her most significant role to date being the Fairy Godmother in Cinderella. Additionally, she is an original member of the Love United choir, which spawned the musical trio, Unity. Although new to directing, Melanie directed the historical short play, A Matter of Conscience, for the Ohio History Center's most recent Juneteenth Celebration.



William Ray-Macke is thrilled to be sharing in Acts of Pride, returning to the stage after a brief hiatus to get his MBA. Prior acting highlights include The Happy Elf (CCT), Young Frankenstein (LTOB), and Falsettos (Gallery). Thanks for coming to see the show and supporting local art with an important message!



Stephen Manos is thrilled to return to the stage under the direction of James Blackmon. His theatrical journey began with roles such as Sydney Bruhl in Deathtrap (Lancaster Playhouse), Mr. DePinna in You Can't Take It With You (Little Theater Off Broadway), and the debut of Norman in The Spare Room (MadLab). He is deeply grateful to Mr. Blackmon for this opportunity, and honored to share the stage with Blanca Gorr, Olie Coen and Lusie Cuskey. Stephen's growth as an actor has been shaped by the thoughtful instruction and guidance of Rick Mason, Ian Short, Krista Lively Stauffer, who have helped him cultivate his craft. He's also kept afloat by the unwavering support of close friends—and at least one therapist who deserves a standing ovation. Cheers to all of you!



Lexi Vestey (She/They) is excited to work with JB3 Entertainment for the first time and make some much needed queer art. She is mostly seen doing musicals, most recently playing Rose in Gypsy (Imagine Productions), and Roger Debris in The Producers (Gallery Players). They would like to thank James for giving her this opportunity and trusting her to do a show without bursting into song. She would also like to thank her parents and partners for their constant support. Trans rights are human rights.



Willow Cook (they/them) is excited to be apart of Acts of Pride. They are thrilled to be collaborating with so many talented artists and close friends on 'Quitting'. They have worked on several other theatre and film projects such as Madlab's Roulette festival. Willow would like to thank their friends, family and loved ones for their support.



Van Olmstead (Jack in Quitting) is excited to be back on stage at MadLab. He made his acting debut here in July in the role of Quinn in Artistic Statement as part of the Young Writers Festival. When not performing, Van is a software architect by day, a man of many hobbies in the evenings, and asleep at night. He would like to send his love and thanks to his amazing wife, Natalie, for her support, the Coen family for inspiring him to take the stage, and to all of you in the audience. Enjoy the show!



Blanca Gorr is thrilled to make her MadLab debut! Though it's been quite some time since her school days on stage, she's overjoyed to be returning to the world of theater. She is deeply grateful to be part of this production and would like to extend heartfelt thanks to her loving and supportive husband, Ryan, for always cheering her on. Blanca also wishes to thank director James Blackmon and her fellow actor Stephen for their kindness, encouragement, and inspiration throughout this wonderful experience.



THE PLAYWRIGHTS

SCOTT C. SICKLES (he/him) is an LGBTQ/neurodivergent/biracial Korean American writer. He has received five consecutive Writers Guild of America Awards for the daytime serial *General Hospital*, and numerous Emmy Award nominations. For over thirty years, his plays have been performed in New York City, his native Pittsburgh, across the United States, as well as internationally in Canada, Australia, the UK, Hungary, Singapore, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Dubai. Sickles holds an MFA in playwriting from Carnegie Mellon University and is a member of the Writers Guild of America, the Dramatists Guild, and the New Play Exchange. www.ScottCSickles.com



Greg Lam is a playwright, screenwriter, and board game designer who lives in the Bay Area. He is the co-founder of the Asian-American Playwright Collective and a member of The Pulp Stage Writer's Room and the Pear Theatre's Playwright Guild. His full-length epic *LAST SHIP TO PROXIMA CENTAURI* premiered digitally at Kitchen Dog Theater in March 2021 and onstage at Portland Stage Co. in March 2022 after winning the Clauder Competition. His full-length play *REPOSSESSED* received its world premiere at Theatre Conspiracy in 2018. His serial play series *TREACHERY ISLAND* will premiere at The Pulp Stage in 2022. Greg writes, largely, full-length epics which combine grinding moral quandaries with science fiction, short plays that are comic romps, and one-minute plays which are incredibly depressing.



Christopher Lockhardt has had his short plays produced over 260 times by 95 different theaters in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Hong Kong, Egypt, and Australia. His work has been included in ten short play anthologies, including four of Smith & Kraus's Best Ten-Minute Plays of the Year collections.



John Mabey (They/Them) is a writer and storyteller whose plays have been published and produced in nine countries and throughout the United States. After living in Europe for a decade, John resides in Atlanta and collaborates with theater companies worldwide, both virtually and in-person. Their work as a playwright is deeply connected to their career in Psychology and certification as a Mental Health Counselor, infusing insights about behavior, emotion, and relationships into their plays. John is a published author on sexual identity and spirituality in academic books and journals, and their multi award-winning play, *A Complicated Hope*, is now available through Dramatic Publishing. When not writing, they enjoy teaching and performing improvised comedy and true storytelling globally. <https://mabeyplays.com/>



Mark Harvey Levine has had over 2300 productions of his short plays everywhere from Bangalore to Bucharest and from Seoul to Sao Paulo. At least 30 of those productions have been at Madlab, mostly in Theatre Roulette. His plays have won over 45 awards, been produced in more than ten languages and have been published in over two dozen anthologies. Full evenings of his work, like “Didn’t See That Coming” and “A Very Special Holiday Special”, have been shown around the world, including at the Edinburgh Fringe. Currently, an evening of his work is playing in Brazil (in Portuguese!) as “Aperitivos”.



Greg A. Smith is a Columbus-based Playwright, originally from the UK. His debut full-length play Sheltered was produced at the Tabard Theatre, London in 2014 and nominated for Best New Play at the Off West End Theatre Awards. Short plays performed in the US and UK include: Schrödinger’s Gun; The Creature at the End of the Bed; To All the Ghosts I’ve Hurt Before; and Just Right. Learn more at www.gregasmithwriting.com.



Doug Powhida is a playwright, author, and humorist. He has scripted dozens of short plays performed at MadLab Theatre for their Theatre Roulette, O.G. Productions' St. James Tavern Annual St. James Tavern Shorts Festival and Taven Takeover Shorts Fests, and at Cannon School in North Carolina. Powhida has been a mentor in The Young Writers Program for the past six years, helping high school students to craft, workshop, and revise short plays that are produced at MadLab Theatre. Powhida's writing efforts include an upcoming book on parenting titled, *Nobody Told Me: A Guide to Passable Parenting* and *I Love Me. Who Do You Love?* a self-published collection of humorous stories, lists, lies, and comics written secretly online under the name HolyJuan. Powhida has published online for over 15 years both as the Fake Dispatch account on Twitter and on HolyJuan.com. Powhida is married to Miss Sally and has two passable children: Greg and Annie. He currently lives in Westerville, Ohio, which is north of Columbus.



Dallas Ray-Macke is a local actor and playwright currently residing in Grove City. He's thrilled to be a part of this festival with his world debut of *Socks and Sandals* and *Capybaras*!



Katelyn France - This is the fifth production that she has been involved with at MadLab Theatre, and her first time writing. Most recently, she played a few roles in the Young Writers Festival, some of her other recent productions include: Ida in *The Villain Wore a Dirty Shirt* [Weathervane Playhouse], Dragon in *The Reluctant Dragon*, Sharon Kettering in *Holier Than Thou*, Rachel Lynde in *Anne of Green Gables* [Aethereal Jest Arts Council], and DJ in *Normies* [Madlab Theatre]. She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors for their enduring support and willingness to watch her be silly on stage.



Nikhil Makhija is originally from Columbus and majored in theatre at Wittenberg University. He has acted for MadLab in *The Counselors* (Waiter), *A Very Special Hanukkah Special* (Boy, Caroler, Judy Maccabee), *Young Writers Festival 2018* (Police Man), 2021 (Evan, Grave Digger, Person 1, Brandon), 2023 (Worker, Octavius), for *Out Of The Box Community Theatre* in *THE GAMES AFOOT* (Simon Bright), and *Mine 4 God Productions (M4GP)* in *COWBOY CHUCK* (Stanley).





James Blackmon began his theatre career at age 11, playing a “General in the Ozian Army” in a children’s theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Since then, he has performed in a wide range of roles, from *Show Boat*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Oliver!*, and *Hairspray* to “Cal” in *The Little Foxes*, “Vladimir” in *Waiting for Godot*, and “Daddy Warbucks” in *Annie*. As a director, his credits include *Dreamgirls*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Doubt: A Parable*, *12 Angry Women*, and *Cats*, and he has also music directed productions such as *Seussical* and *The 1940’s Radio Hour*. In addition to artistic directing his own company, JB3Entertainment, James served as Artistic Director of MadLab Theatre in Columbus, OH, from 2022 to 2025, and is now its Education Director, producing the annual Young Writers Short Play Festival and developing MadLab’s camps, classes, and workshops. At the University of Alabama, where he received a BA in Theatre, James received the Outstanding Freshman in Theatre and the Undergraduate Acting Awards, and was awarded the Excellence in Direction Award in 2017, Outstanding Ensemble/Cast Award in 2018 and the Outstanding Production Award in 2024 from the Central Ohio Theatre Roundtable, an organization for which he is also a past president.

Also an accomplished professional musician (piano, vocals) James has been a working musician practically his entire life, having booked his first gig at 8 years old as the pianist of his church's youth choir. Since then, James has played all across the country and the world both as the frontman of several vocal groups in Alabama, New Orleans, Columbus, and Hamburg, Germany, and as a solo artist for three years as a piano bar entertainer for Holland America Cruise Line. From 2007-2009 James was the co-owner and featured weekend performer at his Columbus, OH piano bar, James' Club 88. In addition, James has recorded three CDs, and gigs regularly in piano bars and jazz clubs in Columbus.

JB3**Entertainment**

JB3Entertainment would like to thank Eric Myers and MadLab for their support and assistance in making this production possible.



Also, a very special than you to Pastor Lorin Darst and First English Lutheran Church for your continued love and support and for making this production possible!!

